

BEFORE THE
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

NOOKSACK BRANCH
NOOKSACK, WASHINGTON 98276

Docket No. A2011-17

**RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE TO COMMISSION
INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 1**

(June 17, 2011)

The United States Postal Service provides its responses to Commission
Information Request No. 1, dated June 14, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

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June 17, 2011

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Question 1

The Postal Service indicates that the Nooksack [Branch] has not been closed, but rather operations have been suspended.¹ Please explain the basis for the suspension.

RESPONSE:

The lease for the Nooksack Branch expired on May 31, 2011. Excess space available at the nearby Everson Post Office (one mile away) is being used to house the relocated box section from Nooksack. Former Nooksack customers are getting their mail via general delivery at the Everson Post Office (meaning without fee) until July 1, 2011.

¹ See Supplemental Response of United States Postal Service to Petitioner's Application for Suspension of Discontinuance for the Nooksack Branch, Nooksack, Washington 98276, May 27, 2011.

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Question 2

Please refer to the Bellingham Herald, June 1, 2011, "Nooksack post office closes, city appealing" in which a spokesman for the Postal Service makes certain representations.² Please confirm each of the following. If not confirmed, please explain.

- a. Prior to suspension of operations at the Nooksack [Branch], the Postal Service had indicated it would install cluster boxes in Nooksack to serve customers formerly serviced by the Nooksack [Branch].
- b. The cluster boxes were not installed in Nooksack prior to the suspension of operations at the Nooksack [Branch].
- c. The cluster boxes will not be installed until after the appeal in Docket No. A2011-17 is completed.
- d. The Postal Service is gathering input from Nooksack residents through mid-July, "and officials in Seattle will make a recommendation to Postal Service headquarters on whether to renew the lease on the building or keep the location closed." *Id.*

RESPONSE:

a-d. Partially confirmed. The Postal Service is installing cluster box units (CBUs) for all customers interested in using them. Exactly which customers were interested in delivery via CBUs was first established via survey; installation will be complete and operational prior to July 1, 2011. Feasibility of discontinuing the Nooksack Station is being explored.

² See <http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2011/06/01/2039220/nooksack-post-office-closes-city.html>, June 1, 2011.

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Question 3

Subsequent to May 27, 2011, how are customers formerly served by the Nooksack [Branch] who opted not to obtain a Post Office box at the Everson Post Office receiving postal services?

RESPONSE:

See the response to Question 1.